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March 23, 1998 LB 1161, 1173

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...selected the right person to say that to and his bill is going to be granted free passage. (Laughter)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate? You've heard the motion to advance. All those in favor of advancement say aye. Those opposed say nay. It is advanced. We'll next move to General File, 1998 senator priority bills, LB 1161. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (LB) 1161 by Senator Bromm. (Read brief description.) Bill was introduced January 14, referred to Natural Resources, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM3706 is referred to on page 1075 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you...thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll open on 1161 and the portion particularly that I will open on will pertain to the sections pertaining to the leaky underground storage tank provisions, LUST, if you will, and I will...I will let Senator Beutler deal with the items in the committee amendments separate from that...from those issues. The body may recall that about three years ago we had a rather traumatic situation occur in the leaky underground storage tank area where we all of a sudden were out of money in the fund to deal with this problem and several hundred cleanup projects were brought to a screeching halt because of the lack of funds. The Legislature started dealing with the matter. There was a program evaluation study and the program was...was, I guess, modified and resurrected and the Department of Environmental Quality was instructed to proceed with cleanup supposedly using the monies that were available to deal with those projects that were of most importance and of most threat to the...to the environment or to human health. As the program has developed since then, there has been a technical advisory committee in place to try to assist the department with recommendations on changes to the implementation of the program as well as any changes in regulations that might be needed. That technical advisory process has involved a lot of work for people who are not necessarily on state payroll at all and I commend the work that they have done and the program evaluation recommendations